

Reply To Examiner's Remarks

Claims 1, 2, 4-13 and 15-22, as amended, are presented for consideration.

The Examiner rejects claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 9-13, 16, 17 and 20-22 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious in view of the combined disclosures in U.S. Patent No. 5,884,156, issued to Gordon, and Japan Patent No. 05-183621, issued to Hiraiwa.

The Examiner indicates that claims 3, 4, 7, 8, 14, 15, 18 and 19 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of the base claim and of any intervening claims.

Claim 3 is canceled and the limitations of former claim 3 are incorporated into an amended claim 1. Claim 14 is canceled and the limitations of former claim 14 are incorporated into an amended claim 12. Independent claims 1 and 12, as amended herein, are believed to be allowable. Claims 2 and 4-11, as amended herein, depend upon amended claim 1 and are believed to be allowable if amended claim 1 is allowable. Claims 13 and 15-22, as amended herein, depend upon amended claim 12 and are believed to be allowable if amended claim 12 is allowable.

The Applicant requests that the Examiner pass the application, including claims 1, 2, 4-13 and 15-22, as amended, to issue as a U.S. patent

Respectfully Submitted,



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